NML, STD telephones are being misused for the personal works;

(b) the details of telephone calls made and money paid in the above labs during the past six months;

(c) whether CSIR has any centralised plan/agency to monitor/check the misuse of the STD telephone installed in its labs; and

(d) if so, action taken against the misusers of STD telephones and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) No specific case of misuse of STD telephone facility in any of the CSIR national Labs/Insts. has been reported. The average monthly billing per connection at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore; Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai and National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur is not indicative of misuse of STD facilities, moreso, in view of the distance that separates each of these National Labs/Instts. from CSIR Hqrs. New Delhi and external agencies whose projects have been taken-up by these Labs/Instts. The average expenditure incurred, when viewed in light of the number of foreign and external projects handeld by each of these laboratories, appears moderate, least to suggest misuse of telephone facility. As a matter of fact, the extensive use of FAX machines for transmission of information/data and the E-mail networking adds substantially to the expenditure. At the same time use of these modern gadgetary is not at all avoidable in the present day order. Details of telephone billing of expenditure incurred in the three Labs/Instts. referred to are as follows:

Name of Labs./Instt.	Billing during the six monthly period between Jan.-June 1997 (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of telephone connections in the Lab./ Instt.	Average monthly billing per connection.
CFTRI	5.16	17	Rs. 5059.00
CLRI	11.30	58	Rs. 3247.00
NML	*3.80	39	Rs. 1624.00

* Amount includes only part bill that has been received for the months May—June 1997.

(c) Dynamic locking facility is used wherever it is available with a view to controlling expenditure. Additionally, Govt. of India orders/instructions for observing austerity are scrupulously adhered to by the council in all its Labs/Instts.

(d) Does not arise.

US pressure to amend patent laws

2139. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Government is pressurising for amending patent laws before negotiating formal science and technology agreement.

(b) if so, this bullying tactics of a super power is encroaching the sovereign right of the country and Parliament; and

(c) if so, whether Government have decided to take up the issue with the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.